Andhra Pradesh and there is no mobile laboratory. In the entire coastal Andhra Pradesh in view of th heavy floods and rains, in most of the villages the water is getting polluted and the sub-soil water is ingesting into in the shallow wells and they are getting polluted, in most of the cases very increasing discreet de-chlorinisation is being done.

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question please.

PROF. UMAREDDY VENKATSWARLU: Will the Government consider providing mobile laboratories in the entire coastal region where the water is being polluted?

MR. SPEAKER: It is done on the recommendation of the State Government the Minister has already said that.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir. Ghaziabad is a very big industrial area. A scheme was framed in 1972 to provide drinking water from Ganga Canal. Drinking water is not available there even now. There is no potable water except fresh water available in wells there. The Government has not been able to complete the scheme since 1972. May I know whether the Government is considering to do something is this regard in future?

MR. SPEAKER: It does not concern filtration, it is about laboratory.

[*English*]

It does not come out of this question.

Paper Plant in Punjab

*287. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foundation stone for a paper plant was laid at Goindwal in Punjab;

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal to cancel the project and the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the time by which the work thereon is likely to start;

(d) whether many ancilliary units have come up there after the laying of the foundation stone; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

* THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) It is for the State Government of Punjab to take a decision in this regard.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The foundation stone of this paper plant was laid by Shri Rajiv Gandhi the them Prime Minister in 1987. It is somewhat heartening to note that the Government has not scrapped the project but it is indeed very disjointing to know that nothing so far has been done for the last four years. It is unfortunate also to note that though the Punjab State has been under the President's rule for the last four years time and again and the Punjab budget has been presented in this House, the Government states that it is for the State Government to decide when the project will be started. I would like to know from the Government whether the conditions which motivated the Government at that time to start the project still prevail and whether it is a fact that the project report and blueprints were prepared. Also spend import of news print foreign exchange Rs. 400 crores what would be the/saving of foreign exchange if this project comes up.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: It is true that the foundation of this project was laid by the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. The Member's argument

that nothing has been done so far is not born by facts. The Government has already taken some steps. The Government of Punjab has acquired about four acres of land and in the location which is a growing one, the preliminary work has been started. What happened is, in the process the Punjab Agr-Industries Corpn. Ltd. approached the IDBI of Punjab, the Punjab Agr-Industries Corporation for assistance and the IDBI desired to made to a cost study. The cost study shows that today the project costs Rs. 497 crores and as the cost of the project today is, the Government of Punjab is of the opinion that the project is not viable. They have referred it to the Project Approval Board of the Government of Punjab for further consideration as to what is to be done. As far as the Government of India is a concerned, we are very anxious to go ahead with this project.

With regard to the savings if this project is implemented, I have already said that there is apprehension about the viability of this project. However, since this will be inter alia manufacturing newsprint and other paper, which we are importing, certainly if this projects is commissioned we will have some savings in the foreign exchange of newsprint.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, as I have submitted earlier, the conditions which motivated the Government to start this project at that time were to give direct and indirect jobs to as many as 8,000 people in the border areas of Punjab. And the same conditions are now prevailing. It is on record that the government could make considerable savings in foreign exchange as an import sustistitute I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that at that time the Government has cleared the project and shdwed its anxiety to ensure that the people in the border areas of Punjab who could be lured by the terrorists, by the anti-social elements, brought into the mainstream by offering them jobs there and some ancillaries were also supposed to be coming up. The argument advanced by the Minister now that it is an unviable unit...

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Alright-sir I would like to know from the hon. Minister the date by which the work could start on that.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: The hon. Member has said that the employment generation is 8,000. But as on record, it is 1,498.

The socio political reasons which prompted the then Prime Minister to take initiative in this project still exist. That is why, I have said that the Government of India is very anxious to proceed with this project. However, I would like to submit that the letter of intent was granted in 1986 and the validity of that letter of intent was over on the 30th of November 1991. We are expecting that the Punjab Government will apply for the extension in the validity of letter of intent and the Government of India will be certainly considering it...

MR. SPEAKER: They are one and the same now.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: We will be doing everything possible from our side.

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 283.

Shri R. Surender Reddy .. Absent

Shri Chitta Basu .. Absent

Question No. 289.

Shrimati Mahendra Kumari .. Absent

Kumari Dipika Chikhlia .. Absent

[*Translation*]

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: She is not a Kumari now, she is Shrimati Deepika now.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Well, socially I got the notice. Legally, I did not.